

# PATRIOT

439th Airlift Wing • Westover Air Reserve Base  
May 2003 • Vol. 30, No. 5



**439AW MISSION: Actively support national objectives on a global scale with ready, mobility forces.**



## Welcome retirees

I extend a warm welcome to our returning retirees. It is great to have you back. You will be extremely proud of what we are accomplishing today and our total efforts in the Global War On Terrorism. Your hard work and mentoring of those that are serving today laid the foundation upon which we rely to succeed. Everyone that works at Westover has once again solidified our reputation as the "TEAM OF CHOICE" for Global Mobility!

by Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick  
439th Airlift Wing Commander



## Congress focuses on reserve issues

**WASHINGTON** - Congress has increased its focus on helping the reserve components since more than 200,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve have been mobilized for the war on terrorism.

With newly introduced bills to enhance reservists' benefits, along with the existing House Guard and Reserve Caucus and newly formed Senate Reserve Caucus, reserve issues have come to the forefront in Congress.

To enhance congressional efforts, Air Force Reserve Command has streamlined its process to provide timely, accurate and consistent information by offering reservists numerous pathways to surface issues and ideas.

Besides submitting initiatives through their chain of command, reservists can propose ideas through the Air Force Reserve Advisory Board and the Office of Air Force Reserve's Policy Integration Directorate in the Pentagon.

The AFRAB accepts any issue or initiative, from addressing existing situations to considering the most creative idea, allowing each reservist to be a catalyst to change.

The policy integration directorate, which goes by the designation REI, deals with all legislative issues for the command at the Air Staff level. The directorate recently expanded AFRC's Congressional Outreach program, which ensures congressional members are aware of the Air Force Reserve and its significant contributions.

REI staffers set up visits for AFRC Commander Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III and wing commanders with their congressional members, provide informative briefings to professional and personal staffs of congressional members and their committees, and answer questions posed by U.S. senators and representatives.

More information about REI is available on its Web site at <<http://www.re.hq.af.mil/>> (AFRC News Service)

## Briefs

### Four Seasons, USCG offer safety course

Four Seasons and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will co-sponsor a Boat Safety Course from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 10.

Completion of this course meets all requirements for operating vessels in the United States. Presentation of the certificate is required for checking out boating equipment at the Four Seasons Outdoor Recreation shop.

Limited spaces are available for the course. For additional information, call Larry Helmer at Four Seasons Outdoor Recreation at Ext. 2974.

### AFA golf scramble tees off in Westfield May 16

The tenth annual Air Force Association Spring Golf Scramble will tee off on May 16 at 9 a.m.

The scramble begins with a shotgun start at the East Mountain Country Club in Westfield. Those interested must sign up by May 9. A \$65 entry fee includes greens fees, lunch, dinner, and refreshments.

For more information, call Sue Alexander at Ext. 2851.

### Nichols College courses available at Base Hangar

Nichols College of Dudley is offering accelerated associate's, bachelor's and master's degree courses in business administration at the Base Hangar on Thursdays.

Classes are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.

Activated reservists and Guard members can receive full tuition assistance.

To learn more, call Nichols College at 1-800-580-1776 or send an e-mail to [military@nichols.edu](mailto:military@nichols.edu).

## Cover photo

**TEXTBOOK TEAMWORK - Members of the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port Squadrons load Connecticut Air National Guard communications gear onto a C-17 (see article and additional photo on page 3).**

— photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

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## 42nd, 58th join forces to help deploy Conn. ANG squadron

**Article and photo  
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe**

A joint operation between Westover's two aerial port squadrons saw more than 700,000 pounds of communication equipment from a local Air National Guard unit shipped overseas from Westover.

Reservists from the 42nd and 58th Aerial Port squadrons joined forces to move the equipment of the 103rd Air Control Squadron from Westover to a Southwest Asia location.

In all, it took nine C-17 Globemaster III airlifters to deploy the equipment from Westover.

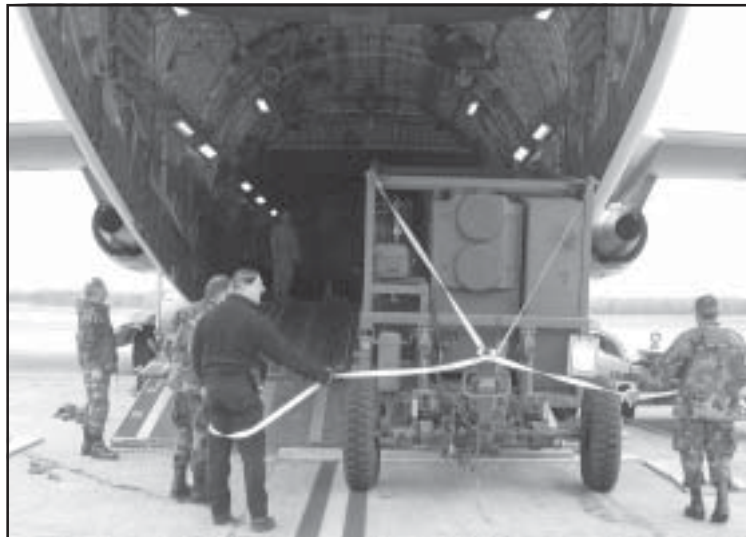
One of the unit's 250 members awaited the arrival of one of the C-17s while he ate ice cream in the passenger terminal.

"This is excellent ice cream," said SSgt. Kevin Townley. "The USO ladies that work in here are the best."

The 103rd ACS, based in Orange, Conn., is a geographically separated unit that falls under the A-10 equipped 103rd Fighter Wing assigned at Bradley IAP in nearby Windsor Locks. Pilots and support members of the A-10 flying squadron were earlier deployed to a Southwest Asia air base.

Townley said the communication's squadron's is similar to that of the crew of an E-3A AWACS — control of military fighters. The major difference is that the unit controls the fighters with equipment on the ground.

Their mission includes utilizing satellite photography, monitoring the skies with radar and operating long-range communications



**PORT PARTNERS-** MSgts. David A. Page, far left, and Daniel C. Witt, center, load communications gear belonging to the 103rd Air Control Squadron, onto a C-17 Globemaster III. Page and Witt are members of the 58th and the 42nd Aerial Port squadrons, respectively.

equipment.

Townley, a satellite communications technician, did not know how long the unit might be assigned overseas. Recently married, he was told to plan for at least a year to be deployed. Contrary to what some people thought, he said the 103rd ACS was called up for Operation Enduring Freedom — not Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I see this as an opportunity to do a real world mission," Townley said. "It's what I have been training for all these years."

Lt. Col. James P. Carey, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron commander, coordinated the airlift

of the 103rd from Westover with the Guard, 22nd Air Force and the airlift control center at AMC headquarters at Scott AFB, Ill.

The aerial port commander described the operation as another successful response to a "can you?" query.

The Air Guard brought more than 60 pieces of their equipment to Westover from Connecticut. The 103rd ACS arranged most of it in rows in a long-term parking lot on Walker Avenue near the 439th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's medical facility.

## Command-level awards join aerial port squadron trophy case

**by SrA. T.R. Ouellette**

Westover's 42nd APS "red hats" always believe they are the best and now they have a top Air Mobility Command award to back it up. The aerial porters were named "Aerial Port of the Year" for 2002.

The aerial porters went into the competition with a long string of accomplishments, including an outstanding EORI performance and having 42 members earn individual awards, tops for Westover.

But what is impressive is their ability to handle multiple missions at the same time, particularly missions that prove to be unique and extremely difficult.

"I would challenge any unit to perform like we did under the same circumstances. Our guys really came together and got the job done," said Lt. Col. James P. Carey, commander of the 42nd APS.

One example, as explained by CMSgt. Zig Skawski, the 42nd APS air transportation manager, was when the unit was deployed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. While there, they were tasked with loading Romanian heavy-armored vehicles for air transport. Unlike American vehicles, Romanian vehicles don't have tie-down points for air transport. This created a problem, but the unit rose to the challenge.

"It wasn't easy because it was all new. It was never done before. They had to train us about their vehicles and we had to train them about our aircraft. And only two of the Romanians knew some English," Skawski said.

After considerable evaluations, the 42nd eventually discovered appropriate tie-down points and the vehicles were flown safely to their destination without a hitch.

While troops were getting the job done in Qatar, other deployed troops were successfully completing a mission in Saudi Arabia, and aerial porters back home successfully maintained the Westover's missions flawlessly.

Skawski said that is what makes the 42nd special. "The diversity of the group, working in unfamiliar areas, while simultaneously meeting those missions, our regular mission and our ORI, is why we won the award," he said. While the squadron won this prestigious command award, one of its air reserve technicians also took a top yearly award.

Due to his exceptional work ethic, dedication to mission and leadership qualities, a Westover Air Terminal Operations Specialist earned the Air Force Reserve Command's "Civilian Transportation Employee of the Year" award.

CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott was selected for the honor primarily for his outstanding ability and willingness in coordinating complex and various tasks. Leading his accomplishments was the spearheading of last year's overseas deployment of the 42nd APS, serving as the point of contact for every Westover humanitarian cargo mission, and his role in establishing a much-needed aircraft loading equipment (60K Turner) school, which has since trained 74 individuals from more than 13 units, here on base.

Westcott said he is grateful for the recognition, but said he'd prefer the credit go to his unit.

"It's nice to be recognized by my peers," Westcott said, "but it's really a reflection of the squadron, not a reflection on me. We have the best."



# Westover command post is best in Air Force Reserve

Article and photo  
by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

They put in 24 hours' worth of hard work here and thousands of miles away from Westover, and it finally paid off for the men and women of the 439<sup>th</sup> AW command post. The 12-member staff of reservists, who link the heart and soul of Westover's flying operations, recently took best command post of the year honors in the large manning category for 2002 in Air Force Reserve Command.

The award recognized 365 days of the most demanding workload ever for SMSgt. Joe Fitzgibbon, command post superintendent, and the staff. They split the 24-hour commitment to Westover with worldwide deployments, as they volunteered to serve their country half of a world away for Operation Enduring Freedom.

On top of all that, 2002 was Westover's busiest year since Operation Desert Storm in 1991. The award cited the command post's support of some 6,973 flying hours, and more than 450 C-5 launches from the base, averaging to more than 40 launches per month.

The staff did their jobs so well that they received accolades from their superiors all across the globe. That combination proved to be the difference in the award, said Capt. Elaine Chaloux, mobilized officer in charge.

And she said it was Fitzgibbon who led the way. "He has a lot on his hands," Chaloux said. "He is a hard worker. He and the staff got all kinds of kudos when they deployed too — from commanders at deployed locations and from AMC."

Westover command post controllers don't have a lot of time these days to savor their award. They are kept busy by a record number of C-5s transiting Westover as the 24-hour stage operation enters its third month. Not too long



Amn. Tiffany Toatley, right, an operations controller augmentee from Dover AFB, Del., and SSgt. Shelley Foust, establish communication with transiting C-5 aircrews.

ago, eight generations of aircraft, with 10 recoveries was the norm. That's all changed with the massive movement of troops and cargo through Westover for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We're at about 14 generations and 18 recoveries per day now," Fitzgibbon said.

To help handle the work, Fitzgibbon recently brought on two augmentees from the command post at Dover AFB, Del. A1C Danielle McGhee and Amn. Tiffany Toatley arrived in early March and will be with the staff for three months.

Fitzgibbon said Toatley has acclimated quickly with all that has to be learned at a new base. That's quite an adjustment for a new airman who has only been an operations controller for seven months.

Toatley's transmissions are only part of the crucial communication hub that senior staff

and aircrews rely on. About three hours away from landing at Westover, aircrews make their first contact with these professionals to make sure all is ready once the wheels hit the runway.

Toatley and everyone in the command post must have the mental capacity to handle many tasks at once. In addition to contact with aircrews, the command post also oversees COMSEC operations, SIPRANET transmissions, secure areas, and classified information.

"The command post isn't for everyone," Chaloux said. "You have to be able to handle a certain amount of stress, and have situational awareness." They must ensure all messages from higher headquarters reach the wing commander as quickly as possible. The command post also teams with the air terminal operations center (ATOC), transient alert, maintenance, base operations, and the unit control center in the 337<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron to ensure all flying operations run smoothly.

Multi-tasking isn't the only thing the command post juggles, Fitzgibbon said. To ease tension, the staff tries to balance an intense military atmosphere and the inherent discipline with the job with a sense of humor.

"We focus on rapport and humor on the job," he said. "And we just try to work together as effectively as possible to try to get the aircraft and crews married up and on their way."

Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> AW commander, praised the command post staff for the award and their efforts. "Our wing command post has proven their dedication and professionalism with their exemplary performance throughout 2002," he said. "The members of our command post team have a proven track record at home and overseas. This command-level award could not be more deserved."

## Evans takes command of operations support squadron

by TSgt. Andrew Reitano

Lt. Col. Patricia Evans took command of the 439<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron on March 26 during a change of command ceremony in the Base Hangar.

Evans, who served as the Intelligence Flight commander, took over for Col. John Riley who is now a special assistant to Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing commander.

"I am honored to represent the men and women of the OSS," said Evans. "It is my wish that as a team we can continue to serve the needs of the wing and the Air Force, and to do it safely, professionally, and proudly."

Evans comes from an operations background that began with undergraduate pilot training at Laughlin AFB, Texas, in November 1980. Some of her other assign-



Evans

ments include CT-39A instructor pilot at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, a T-38 and A-37 chase pilot at Edwards AFB, Calif., and Intelligence officer at Pittsburgh Air Reserve Station, Pa.

Currently enrolled in Air War College, she has completed Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officer School. In addition to her military education, Evans also holds a master's degree in international affairs from Dayton University and a bachelor's in criminal justice from The American University, summa cum laude.

Her military awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, a Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster. The colonel is a distinguished graduate of the Intelligence Application Officer Course.

## Texas maintainers back on flight line for round two



**TWO FROM TEXAS** - Maintainers SSgt. Anthony Gutierrez (left) and MSgt. Richard Porter of San Antonio inspect a wheel well while working for Bandit 7 of the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron.

**Article and photo  
by MSgt. Tom Allocco**

The Texans are back at Westover to help keep the surge going 24 hours a day. In late March, about 160 recently activated maintenance specialists came here from the 433<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas.

The maintainers include crew chiefs, hydraulics, engine and avionics technicians and electro/environmental specialists who are working with the 439<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Sheet metal and aerial repair specialists are helping in the 439<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron shops. Some are also assigned to the Maintenance Operations Control Center (MOCC), formerly Job Control.

The maintainers from Texas are working side-by-side with their Westover counterparts on 12-hour shifts to keep planes moving during the busiest long stretch of activity here since Desert Storm. Immediately following the kick-off of the surge, many of them served here for several weeks in February in civilian status before being activated and returning to Lackland AFB. Their orders assign them here for up to six months.

The efforts of the Texans are greatly appreciated by the Patriot Wing maintainers, said CMSgt. Michael Major, 439<sup>th</sup> AMXS Maintenance Superintendent. "When we were activated our manning was for 10 airplanes a day and all of a sudden we got upwards of 20 to 24 on the ground," he said.

"They are doing a fantastic job. They are helping us fix and move aircraft to meet the flying schedule," he said. "They are integrated in our teams and on our trucks. We have four shifts and four teams on every shift. They possess a tremendous amount of skill and enthusiasm and they have a very positive can-do attitude."

## Ex-POW Colonel Brown wins cheers 30 years after freedom

**by SMSgt. Sandi Michon**

As U.S. prisoners-of-war await their fate in Iraq, Col. Charles A. Brown, 439<sup>th</sup> maintenance group commander, recalled the end of his own POW experience 30 years earlier.

On April 1, 1973, a young, gaunt Capt. Brown walked off the C-9 onto Westover's tarmac after spending 101 days as a prisoner of war at the "Hanoi Hilton" after his B-52 was hit by a missile over Hanoi Dec. 19, 1972.

Base personnel commemorated the homecoming anniversary with a surprise ceremony. After the applause ebbed, Brown was quick to say, "The real heroes are the ones who didn't come home."

Brown's experience as a POW takes on renewed significance in light of current events in Iraq. "It brings back old memories," said the soft-spoken logistics commander. His most vivid memory is the first day of confinement – the transition from an active combatant to a prisoner.

"The first day is the most dangerous," he said, and explained that prior to confinement, most POWs first survive a firefight, and other forms of enemy bru-

ality. Brown was televised as a POW in Vietnam and he posited that it may have saved his life. "If you end up on camera, you generally get released because of the increased accountability it creates, he explained. "In a larger sense, it's more dangerous to not appear on camera."

Brown sees similarities between North Vietnam and Iraq. "Both situations involve dictators that have little value for human life," he said.

He also saw the parallels of anti-war sentiments as damaging to the mission and to the morale of U.S. troops. "Peter Arnett (former NBC reporter) reminds me of Hanoi Jane," Brown said.

Three decades have helped heal the psychological pain of his POW confinement, but Brown says his experiences also helped him focus on what's important. "You find you place greater emphasis on relationships," he said, and added that his faith played a role in his survival. As they "tapped" GBA (God Bless

America) on cell walls, they also knew what time of day it was by counting the bell tolls from the Hanoi Catholic church nearby.

"They constantly fed us lies over the radio, but my faith helped me know they were just lies," he said.

Many base personnel shook Brown's hand, and thanked him again for his service. Brown is one of the few former Vietnam POWs still actively serving in the military. "I remember seeing his skinny face in the C-9 window when it taxied into the parking ramp at Westover," said CMSgt. George Kudla, 439<sup>th</sup> AMDS

superintendent of medical administration. "He asked how the Boston Bruins were doing," Kudla recalled amid good-natured laughter.

Brown has nearly 35 years military service and is serving in his third war. "I think I'm closer to the end of my career than at the beginning," he quipped.



**Brown**





Air Force photo

Westover reservists MSgt. William, 439th ASTS (far left), TSgt. Jeffrey, 439th AMDS (center), and TSgt. Colleen, 439th ASTS (back right), move troops injured during Operation Iraqi Freedom from a C-141 Starlifter to a waiting bus at Ramstein AB, Germany.

## Westover medical reservists treat combat casualties

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: Air Force security guidelines prohibit use of last names of deployed reservists.)*

Westover's medical reservists train for war and now find themselves on headline news in the thick of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As the dead and wounded were airlifted into Ramstein AB in Germany during the weekend of March 22-23, 15 members of the 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS were pressed into action.

"It was pretty intense," said MSgt. William\*, superintendent of administration. "You hear about casualties on the news, but when you put a face to the statistic, it makes it personal. When you look at a wounded soldier, it brings it all home – it solidifies our purpose," he said.

"We arrived in Germany at 2 a.m. and hit the ground running," William said. Within hours, they were transporting wounded from C-141s to nearby Landstuhl Army Regional Medical Center. Among the patients were grenade victims with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, and U.S. Marines ambushed during the fake surrender of Iraqi soldiers.

Westover's medics were on hand when rescued POW, Pfc. Jessica Lynch arrived at Ramstein. Westover's Maj. Mark\*, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS flight surgeon, treated Lynch on the ambush en route to Landstuhl for surgery. They also handled some of the first Marines that entered Baghdad.

"I'm most impressed by the selfless dedication of the wounded soldiers. They are less worried about their own injuries and more

concerned about leaving fellow soldiers in the field," said SSgt. Michael\* whose sentiments were echoed by several others. Michael served as a Navy corpsman for six years and treated victims of the Suez Canal bombings, but he still struggles a bit with enjoying more "comforts" in Germany than Marine and Army soldiers in trenches in Iraq. "But, I know we're doing a vital mission here – bringing our heroes home," he said.

CMSgt. Mark\*, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS medical services manager, said Westover's ASTS team is working with a McGuire AFB unit setting up a 100-bed contingency aeromedical staging facility to work jointly with the 86<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein. Mark also mentioned the 16 remains that arrived at the Ramstein morgue unit recently. "It's sobering...it brings you a lot closer to reality," he said. "But, we're concentrating on trying to keep people alive."

The increased activity came just days after the medical cadre departed Westover on March 21 to work the Aeromedical Staging Facility at Ramstein. The team includes two flight surgeons, nine medical technicians, two medical administration technicians and a pharmacy technician. TSgt. Jeffrey\*, biomedical equipment journeyman with the 439<sup>th</sup> AMDS accompanied the ASTS team who are scheduled to be in theater for up to six months.

By the time the wounded arrive at Ramstein, they have typically processed through three echelons of medical care depending on the severity of their injuries. When wounded in combat, after self-aid buddy care, the injured are taken to a Forward Surgical Team (FST)

**ASTS continued on next page**

## ASTS continued from page 6

close to the front lines. Once stabilized enough for transport, they are moved to a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility (MASF) to await transport to an Aeromedical Staging Facility (ASF) and then to a conventional hospital overseas or back in the States. If the patient cannot be stabilized, they are moved to a Combat Army Surgical Hospital (CASH) with better facilities further back from the front lines.

Westover's ASTS personnel support the MASF and ASF echelons of medical care. Col. Sarah Waterman, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS commander, says she's bursting with pride about her unit's contributions

to the war effort. Westover personnel in Germany have maintained a high profile, appearing on 60 Minutes, CNN, NBC, ABC and many other military and civilian media outlets.

The ASTS also expects to deploy a three-member CCATT – or Critical Care Air Transport Team – made up of a flight surgeon, critical care nurse and a cardio-pulmonary technician. Col. Stanley Chartoff and Capt. Shawn Howard served on a CCATT in Afghanistan from March to June 2002 and expect to be deployed again in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (See sidebar)

## Critical care team treats helicopter pilots in Afghanistan

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

“Apache down.”

This was no exercise. This was what they trained for.

When Lt. Col. Stanley Chartoff and Capt. Shawn Howard took off from an airbase near Kandahar, Afghanistan, to airlift the injured Apache pilots, they went in having to expect the worst. Neither knew how badly the pilots were injured or how bad enemy fire might be flying over hostile territory.

“When the Apache pilots were loaded on the C-130, we assumed the worst because we had so little information to go on,” Chartoff said. “At Karshi Kanabad, Uzbekistan, we learned the extent of their injuries.” The diagnosis was broken backs. Chartoff and Howard then stayed with the pilots for the C-17 flight to Ramstein AB, Germany.

As members of a Critical Care Air Transport Team (CCATT) the two 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS reservists learned to “adjust to the mission” when they served in Afghanistan last year. As they expect to deploy to the AOR any day, Afghanistan was, most likely, a sneak preview of coming attractions.

“Flying tactical missions on a C-130 while expecting hostile fire may seem like a major distraction, but you get preoccupied with caring for the patient,” said Howard, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS critical care nurse. He and Chartoff, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS flight surgeon, and TSgt. Jennifer Cutler formed a three-member CCATT that served as an important cog in the medical airlift process – especially for critically injured patients. “We fly with the patient until they arrive at

a fixed hospital, providing treatment as needed en route,” explained Chartoff.

Their second mission was airlifting 10-year-old Afghani children injured by mines while playing soccer. Within two hours of the injuries, the children were airlifted by British helicopter to Kandahar, where they were loaded onto the C-130. “We triaged and treated them in the cargo bay,” said Howard. They flew to Kabul, then onto a German humanitarian hospital. “We flew in hurricane-force winds through a wicked sandstorm, but I never felt fear,” said Howard, who confesses that a few bumps in a civilian flight will produce white knuckles. For Chartoff, who resembles Hawkeye in the M.A.S.H. series, the injured children couldn't help but remind him of his four and six-year-olds back home.

Both Chartoff and Howard work in civilian emergency rooms in Connecticut – a solid background for CCATT work. “The patient care aspect is similar but the aerovac environment is much harder,” Chartoff explained, citing the lack of diagnostics, lack of communication, and lack of specialists generally available in most hospitals. “All the patient needs are yours – and you can't even talk to each other over the engine noise,” said Chartoff. Howard added that they usually don't know how the patient fared after the airlift. “Although, we did find out [on a TDY] a year later that the injured Afghani kids were okay,” he said.

As Howard and Chartoff await orders for their planned CCATT to the AOR, TSgt. Richard Chapp, 439<sup>th</sup> ASTS cardio-pulmonary technician, rounds out the CCATT threesome. Between them, they have 46 years military training – ready for use.

## 439th AES AELT teams persevere in harsh conditions

by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

Billeting is the foxholes you dig, and chemical warfare gear serves as pillow and teddybear – until you have to wear them. In another location, the temperature reads 105 degrees and it's deemed a “cool” day.

That's the word from 20 439<sup>th</sup> AES personnel serving near the front lines in Operation Iraqi Freedom as five four-person Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Teams (AELTs). According to Maj. Marie Dufault, 439<sup>th</sup> AES chief of medical mobility, AELTs work the transport details needed to move the combat-injured from frontline, Forward Surgical Teams to a Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility, where they await further transport to a conventional hospital. AELTs consist of a medical services coordinator, one flight nurse and two radio operators.

“All our teams are in place – actively supporting Army and Marine medical airlift,” Dufault said. In some locations, members

are regularly wearing chemical warfare gear – between MOPP 2 and MOPP 4 – in one location, 28 times. Dufault received an e-mail from a reservist in the latter situation requesting that her chemical warfare certification be waived for the rest of her career.

Ironically, Dufault admitted that this reservist's name had recently appeared on a roster for refresher training. AELT members find that real-world conditions do not always follow training directives. Capt. Patricia\*, 439<sup>th</sup> AES MASF logistics manager OIC, coined the motto “Semper Gumby” reflecting the need to stay flexible to respond to real needs. “Today's experience dictates the doctrine of tomorrow,” said Dufault.

For Captains Calvin\* and Mark\*, 439<sup>th</sup> AES managers, “yesterday's” Army experience prepared them for a bare base location in Iraq. Until tents were delivered, bed was a foxhole.

Two Westover AELT members are actually serving temporarily on the USN Comfort, one of the two 1,000 bed hospital ships under the Military Sealift Command. Maj. Michael\* MASF operations OIC with the AES, says conditions are crowded, with seven officers to a room. Michael finds his Air Force sea duty particularly noteworthy in that he previously spent five years as a Navy hospital corpsman, never setting foot on a ship.

Westover's AES also deployed a PMI (Patient Movement Item) cell, which consists of two reservists who work with operations teams to move medical equipment and order supplies. “They are the logistical aid for medical operations,” explained Dufault.

The AES also deploys 11-member MASF augmentation packages to help staff Mobile Aeromedical Facilities. The package includes four flight nurses, six medical technicians and one administration specialist.



## TRICARE changes aimed at helping reservists, families

**WASHINGTON**— Families of reservists mobilized for more than 30 consecutive days may now opt for the military's best form of healthcare insurance. In a pending change, families who live with their military sponsors at the time of their mobilization will be eligible for TRICARE Prime Remote when the mobilized reservists deploy outside the area.

"We want to ensure that our mobilized National Guard and Reserve members aren't worried about who's caring for their families while they're gone, and to return them to families whose health care needs have been met by the military health system," said Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs.

Previously, reservists had to be placed on military orders for 179 days or more for their families to get TRICARE Prime, the most advanced form and lowest cost healthcare insurance, which includes preventive health care, no deductibles, no enrollment fees and no cost-shares. If reservists were activated for less than 179 days, their families were automatically

covered under TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra without having to send enrollment forms to TRICARE.

Families lose their eligibility for TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Members coverage when reservists deploy outside the immediate area, so officials in the TRICARE Management Activity are working to implement the change. In the future, families will still have to "reside with" the reservists at the time of mobilization to qualify for TRICARE Prime Remote for Active-Duty Family Member coverage, which allows them to obtain medical care 50 miles or more from a military medical treatment facility. TRICARE Prime Remote was originally designed to provide medical care for recruiters and their families if they live and work outside a military medical treatment facility area.

Hall and Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced the policy changes March 12. The change in qualifying days for TRICARE Prime took effect March 10. As of March 24,

TRICARE Management Activity officials said the effective date of the TRICARE Prime Remote policy change was yet to be determined but said the change would not be retroactive.

Congress recognized the concerns of reservists and their families, so it mandated the changes in the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

To qualify for TRICARE benefits, Guard and Reserve sponsors need to verify the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System information for themselves and their family members is accurate and up-to-date. They are encouraged to contact DEERS at the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll free at (800) 538-9552. Sponsors and family members may also update their addresses in DEERS on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> under "DEERS."

A list of frequently asked questions about benefits for reservists and their families can be found on the TRICARE Web site under "reserve," and fact sheets are available under "factsheets." (AFRC News Service)

## Reservists may work off-duty jobs subject to regulations

The base legal office staff reminds Air Force reservists that they may work off-duty jobs subject to the limitations and prohibitions in the Joint Ethics Regulations (JER) and its supplements.

Generally, reservists may not engage in outside employment, with or without compensation that interferes with or is not compatible with performance of government duties; may reasonably be expected to bring discredit upon the government or DoD; may tend to create a conflict of interest; is a safety risk; detracts from readiness or poses a security risk.

Activated reservists who engage in off-duty employment are reminded to resubmit an Air Force Form 3902. The form needs to be handled with the reservist's supervisor, squadron commander, legal office and group commander for approval. A previously approved AF Form 3902 from the last activation will not suffice for the current activation.

Any rights under USERRA may be materially affected by continued civilian employment. Questions can be directed to the legal office at Ext. 3180.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

### Patriot away

**BIG GULP** — Aerial porters maneuver a Patriot missile battery radar unit onto a Galaxy in March. The desert-colored radar unit was recently upgraded at one of Raytheon's Massachusetts plants. A second radar unit was also loaded on the aircraft.



## Ready for a fight



photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

**MARTIAL MARINES** - Marine reservists with the 472nd Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS), a tenant unit assigned to Westover, receive martial arts instruction at the base ellipse on March 22. The hand-to-hand combat techniques are part of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. According to Maj Terry Harwood, MWSS OIC, their 150-member unit provides aviation ground support at a forward operating theater.

## Parents can help children cope with anxieties, stress of war

The stresses of childhood can be difficult at the best of times, but since 9/11 children and parents have had to deal with a new set of anxieties for which they may not be prepared. Help is available if you are having trouble talking to children about war and the stresses of the events since the attacks on America.

Roy Green, director of the Westover Family Support Center, and Chaplain (Capt.) William S. Wiecher are assisting area schools with setting up support groups to give counsel and guidance to children and parents. They offer a brochure, "Talking With Children About War," which addresses the concerns of parents and offers insights in how

children respond to potentially traumatic events around them.

An important point made in the brochure is that if children are not talking about war, it doesn't mean they are not thinking about it.

Sometimes when children feel overwhelmed they can't express themselves verbally and may act out their feelings in other ways. They may be short-tempered, anxious, have nightmares or withdraw. Just talking to a child can help them to cope.

For a copy of "Talking With Children About War" or for more information, call the Family Support Center at Ext. 3024 or the chaplain at Ext. 3031.

## President Bush establishes medals for global war on terror

by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** -- President Bush has issued an executive order establishing two military awards for actions in the global war on terrorism.

The president signed the order March 12 establishing the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

A White House spokesman said the medals recognize the "sacrifices and contributions" military members make in the global war on terror.

The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military expeditions to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Operation

Enduring Freedom is the prime operation the medal may be awarded for. Personnel assigned to operations in Afghanistan and the Philippines are examples of service members who will receive the award.

The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to service members who serve in military operations to combat terrorism on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

Operation Noble Eagle is an example of the type of operation the medal may be awarded for.

The awards do not take the place of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, established Dec. 4, 1961, or the Armed Forces Service Medal, established Jan. 11, 1996.

"Any member who qualified for those medals by reason of service in operations to combat terrorism between September 11, 2001,

and a terminal date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense, shall remain qualified for those medals," the executive order reads. "Upon application, any such member may be awarded either the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Armed Forces Service Medal."

No one may be awarded more than one of the four medals for service in the same approved expedition or operation to combat terrorism. No one is entitled to more than one award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

The medals may be awarded posthumously. DoD and military service officials, including the Coast Guard, are working on provisions to award the medals.

## Services inadvertently omitted in unit roundup

The following describes the mission of the 439th Services Squadron. Information on the squadron was mistakenly omitted in the March issue of the *Patriot*.

The squadron is staffed with 102 civilians and 40 reservists. A variety of well-known areas on base fall under the squadron's responsibility. Those include the Consolidated Club, bowling center, fitness center, lodging, marketing and the outdoor recreation/rental center.

Most services reservists are required to be deployed within 72 hours of notification. They are expected to establish and augment services forces with food service, lodging, mortuary affairs, fitness & recreation, tactical field exchange and laundry.

# Act may protect active-duty reservists, guardsmen

**WASHINGTON** - Guardsmen and reservists called to active duty to fight the global war on terror may seek credit protection under a law passed to aid GIs in an earlier global war.

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 protects military members from certain legal obligations while they are actively engaged in national defense.

Among the Act's chief provisions is its ability to reduce interest rates on debts incurred before active-duty status, protect servicemembers and their families from eviction, and delay civil court actions.

But it is not automatic. For servicemembers to take advantage of the act, individual servicemembers should notify their creditors of the active-duty status and their intent to invoke their civil relief act rights.

Sometimes, however, creditors do not strictly adhere to the letter of the law, even when they are given proper notice. In one case about to enter litigation, a Reserve airman from California is depending on the power of the American Bar Association to help him pick up the pieces of his shattered financial life.

According to Col. John S. Odom Jr., a Reserve legal officer temporarily assigned to 8th Air Force at Barksdale AFB, La., the reservist in question is a master sergeant who owned a construction company, a home and a boat before being activated for a year.

Now, just two months after coming off active duty, the Travis AFB, Calif., noncommissioned officer's creditors are threatening to foreclose on his home and his boat, his life savings is gone, his credit is wrecked and his company is in limbo.

"He's a classic poster child for the act," Odom said.

Odom said while most of the creditors complied with the sergeant's request for relief, several did not. Now, immediately after the sergeant has come off active duty, all his creditors are demanding immediate payment of everything he owes them — just as he is trying to get his business re-started.

The key point of contention, Odom said, is a provision in the law that allows a reservist to seek a moratorium on continuing obligations for a period equal to the time spent on active duty, to give the servicemember time to recover financially.

The ABA's committee on legal assistance to military personnel has agreed to represent the sergeant, without charge, to help publicize the act.

"He's a dream client, as far as documentation goes," Odom said. "He's kept copies of everything."

While all servicemembers receive some protections under the act, additional rights are specifically geared toward members of the Re-

serve community who are mobilized. Department of Defense officials said March 19 that 212,617 reservists and guardsmen had been called to active duty.

Specifically, rights under the act include:  
— Limiting interest rates to 6 percent for all debts incurred before beginning active-duty service. This provision includes interest rates on credit cards, mortgages and auto loans. It does not apply to federal student loans.

— Protecting family members from eviction during times of active-duty service, regardless of whether the lease was signed before or after activation. If the monthly lease is \$1,200 or less, a landlord must seek a court order to authorize an eviction.

— Prohibiting repossessions and foreclosures without court permission.

— Postponing civil lawsuits the servicemember is a direct party to, such as bankruptcy.

— Extending deadlines to file law suits by eliminating time served on active duty from calculating any statute of limitations.

— Protecting active-duty people from taxation by states other than by their state of domicile.

For more information, contact Valerie L. Burkes at 703-695-0640. Reservists at Westover with questions may contact the reserve legal office at Ext. 3180.

## A nose for news

### UTA Schedule Fiscal Year 2004

	A	B
October	4-5	18-19
November	1-2	15-16
December	6-7	NO B UTA
January	10-11	24-25
February	7-8	21-22
March	6-7	20-21
April	3-4	17-18
May	1-2	15-16
June	12-13	26-27
July	10-11	24-25
August	7-8	21-22
September	11-12	25-26



photo by SMSgt. Sandi Michon

**MEDIA MEETING** - Local television and newspaper crews crowd around a Westover C-5 during Media Day held on March 26. More than 20 television and newspaper reporters attended the event that included a C-5 tour and interviews with senior staff and aircrew and maintenance members of the 439th Airlift Wing.



## Patriot People

**Name:** Erin M. Cabral  
**Rank:** A1C  
**Age:** 19  
**Address:** Taunton, Mass.  
**Unit:** 439th OSS  
**Position:** Flight records  
**Civilian position:** School  
**Favorite food:** Steak  
**Years of service:** Two  
**Favorite sport:** Soccer  
**Favorite hobby:** Reading  
**Ideal vacation:** Portugal  
**Best way to relax:** Go out with friends  
**Preferred entertainment:** Going to the club  
**Favorite hero:** My mother  
**Favorite music:** R&B  
**Favorite movie:** Sweet Home Alabama  
**Favorite aircraft:** F-16  
**Pet peeve:** Fake people  
**What I would do if I won \$1 million:** Buy a house



photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

A1C Erin M. Cabral

## Patriot Praises

Reenlistments:	MSgt. Quirk, Brian M.	TSgt. Henrickson, David K.	SSgt. Comeau, Jason L.	SrA. Herbert, Paul John
SMSgt. Flynn, Glenn M.	MSgt. Roux, Kevin D.	TSgt. Labreche, Byron B.	SSgt. Gambino, Earl Glen	SrA. Langevin, Robert L., Jr.
MSgt. Darling, Charles F.	TSgt. Dietrich, Sabine	TSgt. Murray, Petra V.	SSgt. Markey, Victor M.	SrA. Salinas, David R.
MSgt. Domenichella, Frank A.	TSgt. Diggs, Anthony M.	TSgt. Reim, David O.	SSgt. Poulin, Jacqueline Rita	SrA. Steele, Robert Q.
MSgt. Hamm, Tamara M.	TSgt. Fowler, Teresa A.	TSgt. Serricchio, Robert M.	SSgt. Wilcox, Debra J.	
MSgt. Keitt, William Jr.	TSgt. Green, Daniel W.	TSgt. Theriault, Andre R.	SSgt. Wilson, John J.	
MSgt. Preble, Robert S.	TSgt. Harris, Shawn M.	TSgt. Valladares, Neil B.	SrA. Bentley, Steven Paul	

### AIR FORCE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

SMSgt. Peter J. Steeves	439 MXS
MSgt. Alexander J. Abrams	439 AMXS
MSgt. Kenneth R. Belanger	439 AMXS
MSgt. Timothy P. Biros	439 AMXS
MSgt. Stephen E. Kida	439 AMXS
MSgt. William Richardson	439 AMXS
MSgt. Ronald Siwa	439 AMXS
TSgt. Mark D. Baker, Jr.	439 MXS
TSgt. Daryl J. Brown	439 AMXS
TSgt. Glenn G. Connon	439 AMXS
TSgt. Eric P. Dibrindisi	439 AMXS
TSgt. William B. Gagnon	439 MXS
TSgt. Dwayne D. Jolicoeur	439 MXS
TSgt. Keith L. Jones	439 MXS
TSgt. Jared M. Kalagher	439 MXS
TSgt. Laurence D. Kimball	439 MXS
TSgt. Raymo B. Morehouse	439 MXS
TSgt. Steven R. Nogas	439 AMXS
TSgt. Daniel R. Prescott	439 AMXS
TSgt. Anthony J. Rodrigues	439 MXS
TSgt. Jeffrey R. Roule	439 AMXS
TSgt. David S. Sadler	439 AMXS
TSgt. Charles A. Thompson	439 AMXS
TSgt. Justine E. Thurber	439 MXS
SSgt. Frederick C. Andrews	439 AMXS
SSgt. Marc P. Awad	439 AMXS
SSgt. Marykate Casey	439 AMDS
SSgt. Michael G. Cleveland	439 MXS
SSgt. Lesli A. Creighton	439 AMDS
SSgt. Anthony M. Diggs	439 AMXS
SSgt. Joseph T. Dordine, Jr.	439 ASTS
SSgt. Mary E. Grasso	439 ASTS
SSgt. Andre Greene	439 MXS
SSgt. Michael W. Guntor	439 MXS
SSgt. David A. Jeleniewski	439 CES
SSgt. Steven G. Langevin	439 AES
SSgt. Michael J. Latter	439 MXS
SSgt. Brian D. Leclerc	439 AMXS

SSgt. James G. McLaughlin	439 MXS
SSgt. Steven L. Zalimas	439 MXS
SrA. Richard B. English	439 AMDS
A1C Mary Gallagher	439 AW

### AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

Capt. Calvin A. Mellor	439 AES
Capt. Adam C. Shattuck	439 AMXS
Capt. Edward J. Peplinski, Jr.	439 AES
1st Lt. Edward E. Rhodes III	439 ASTS
CMSgt. Claude G. Drouin	439 MXG
SMSgt. Christopher M. O'Neil	439 MXS
MSgt. Steve Bogard, Jr.	439 AMXS
MSgt. Timothy Boyer	439 AMXS
MSgt. Paul L. Frappier, Jr.	42 APS
MSgt. Scott Griffin	439 AMXS
MSgt. James J. Konunchuk	439 AMXS
MSgt. Ronald Moon	439 AMXS
MSgt. Charles W. Nash	439 MXG
MSgt. David Turner	439 AMXS
TSgt. Eric R. Aktiv	439 AMXS
TSgt. John T. Barley	439 MXS
TSgt. John F. Barrows	439 MXS
TSgt. Mary I. Bihlmeyer	439 AMDS
TSgt. Kevin M. Bowen	439 MXS
TSgt. Rachael A. Brewton	439 AW
TSgt. Thomas J. Bulington	439 AMXS
TSgt. Stephen P. Butler	439 MXS
TSgt. Paul L. Cloutier	439 MXS
TSgt. Patrick M. Conway	439 ASTS
TSgt. Alan J. Davis	439 MXS
TSgt. Douglas A. Desmarais	439 MXS
TSgt. Douglas E. Emo	439 MXG
TSgt. Robert F. Flynn, Jr.	439 APS
TSgt. Victor M. Fuentes	439 AMXS
TSgt. Randall R. Gray	439 AMXS
TSgt. Carlos Guerra	439 MXS
TSgt. Lee D. Hareld	439 MXS
TSgt. Robert J. Leisenfelder	439 CES

TSgt. Mark E. Lockwood	439 MXS
TSgt. Frank A. Manegio, Jr.	439 MXS
TSgt. Glenn A. McDonald	439 CES
TSgt. John C. Romprey	439 MXS
TSgt. James J. Stefferson	439 MXS
TSgt. Karl E. Sweikhart	439 MXS
TSgt. Martin A. Talbert	439 MXS
TSgt. Jeffrey G. Vanderpool	439 MXS
TSgt. Abram L. Winters	439 CS
TSgt. Steven M. Wrobel	439 AMXS
TSgt. Bruce A. Yargeau	439 AMXS
SSgt. Timothy D. Cawthra	439 MXS
SSgt. Ronald H. Corliss	439 AMXS
SSgt. Daniel J. Howard	439 AMXS
SSgt. Brandon W. Ives	439 MXS
SSgt. Shawn A. Manley	439 AMXS
SSgt. Valerie S. Montano	439 MXS
SSgt. Mark E. Schabek	439 MXS

### MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

Maj. Rosemary Costa	439 AES
Maj. Adele C. Hill	439 AES
SMSgt. Gary A. Hebert	439 MXS
SMSgt. Kenneth R. Hebert	439 AES
SMSgt. Robert D. Merchant	439 MXS
SMSgt. Ronald E. Philbrick	439 MXS
SMSgt. Kristine M. Seney	439 MSS
MSgt. Michael R. Ashman	439 AMXS
MSgt. Timothy P. Biros	439 AMXS
MSgt. Albert J. Friguglietti	439 MXS
MSgt. Julianna M. Glahn	42 APS
MSgt. James A. Helems, Jr.	439 AES
MSgt. Paul J. Janeczek	439 MXS
MSgt. Deborah A. Malek	439 AW
MSgt. Jack E. Middleton	42 APS
MSgt. Richard Wurszt	439 MXS
TSgt. Robert B. Linton	42 APS

# USO provides food pantry for needy military families

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

When military families need help, the Pioneer Valley USO is here for them, with no questions asked. A USO Food Pantry on base is offering food to an increasing number of military families following activations and economic downturns.

Sandy Wakefield, director of the Pioneer Valley USO, said activity at the food pantry has tripled since 9/11.

The only requirement for food assistance is a military ID card. No other questions about

eligibility are asked of those who come to the food pantry. A family can come to the food pantry twice a month for assistance. People receive help at each visit based upon family size and the amount of food on hand.

Help to military families through the USO Food Pantry is made possible by donations of non-perishable foods from groups and individuals. Veterans groups, schools, scouts, law enforcement agencies, church and other

civic groups donate to the pantry. Individuals are also encouraged to donate canned goods, cereals, juice and other non-perishable foods.

The USO Food Pantry is located in Bldg. 1100 on Walker Avenue, near the ellipse. It is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays of "A" and "B" UTAs. Its extension is 3290.



photo by MSgt. W.C. Pope

USO volunteer Darlene Burbank sorts through some donated toiletries, notepads, and other gifts for the troops from St. Cecilia's Church in Wilbraham.

## June 26 - Employer Appreciation Day

Reservist's name, rank and unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reservist's daytime telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's company name/address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for employer: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch for reservist: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I may nominate one person annually, and only an individual who is my supervisor, foreman, manager, etc.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Falsification of information on this form can be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.)

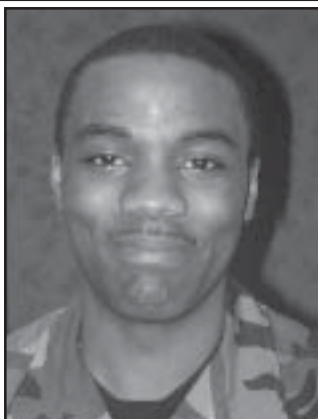
Return this form to:

439th Airlift Wing/ Public Affairs, 100 Lloyd St., East Wing, Suite 103  
Westover ARB, Mass. 01022-1825

**PATRIOT**

[www.afrc.af.mil/439aw](http://www.afrc.af.mil/439aw)

May UTA schedule  
A UTA May 3-4  
B UTA May 17-18



439th AW/PA  
WESTOVER AIR RESERVE BASE  
100 Lloyd Street  
East Wing, Suite 103  
CHICOPEE, MA 01022-1825

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Published monthly for Patriots like SrA. Kevin Gathers, Brooklyn, N.Y., and 2,488 members of the 439th AW at Westover ARB, and geographically separated units.